

NC Final Exams Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) 2019–20

For specific questions about the EVAAS growth model or Effectiveness Status, please contact the Educator Effectiveness Team at educatoreffectiveness@dpi.nc.gov.

1. Are NC Final Exams part of the state’s Accountability Model?

No. The NC Final Exams are not part of the Accountability Model. They are used in grades or subject areas that do not have an end-of-grade (EOG) or end-of-course (EOC) to measure student growth for teachers and school growth for participants in the North Carolina Educator Effectiveness System (NCEES).

2. How do the NC Final Exams affect a student’s overall grade average?

Results from a valid test administration must be used as a minimum of 20 percent of the student’s final grade for each respective course. This requirement does not apply to end-of-year assessments in grades 6–8, but public schools may adopt policies to use results from end-of-year assessments in grades 6–8 as part of the student’s final grade.

3. Does the 95 percent rule for participation in assessments in the North Carolina Testing Program apply to the NC Final Exams?

The 95 percent rule does not apply to the NC Final Exams.

4. If an NC Final Exam is administered in a class, are all students enrolled in the class required to take the assessment? Can districts/schools “excuse” students who are already failing the course from taking the NC Final Exam?

State Board policy TEST-016 requires all eligible students who are enrolled in a course in which an NC Final Exam is being administered to participate in the administration, with or without accommodations. This includes students who are identified as failing a course, grade, or subject for which an NC Final Exam is required. Districts/schools cannot “excuse” students from the NC Final Exams.

5. Are students enrolled in the North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) required to take an NC Final Exam?

Yes. All students (including charter school students) enrolled in courses taught by the NCVPS must take the corresponding NC Final Exams. This includes NCVPS Occupational Course of Study (OCS) courses that are taught jointly between the district/school and NCVPS. Since the North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) is a supplement to public schools, determination of an NCVPS final course grade is the districts’ decision. The district determines according to local policy how much the NCFE will count in a student’s final grade for the course.

6. What is required of charter schools in regard to NC Final Exams?

The administration of NC Final Exams is optional for charter schools. An exception to this policy is for charter school students enrolled in courses through the NCVPS. These students must participate in the corresponding NC Final Exams.

7. Are middle school students who are taking a course with an NC Final Exam required to take the NC Final Exam if they are taking an EOG in the same subject area?

Yes. If a middle school student is enrolled in a course in which an NC Final Exam is administered, he or she is expected to take **both** the NC Final Exam and the EOG test. For example, an 8th-grade student enrolled in Earth/Environmental Science would take both the Earth/Environmental Science NC Final Exam and the grade 8 Science EOG.

8. Are middle school students who are taking World History required to take the World History and the Grade 8 social studies NC Final Exam?

No. If a middle school student is enrolled in the World History course, he or she is only expected to take the World History NC Final Exam.

9. Are students enrolled in a course for credit recovery required to take an NC Final Exam in that course?

No. Students taking a course for credit recovery are not required to take the NC Final Exams. If a district/school chooses to administer the NCFE as part of a credit recovery requirement, the scores are not included in the growth model.

10. Are students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses required to take an NC Final Exam?

No. AP and IB courses have a different process for determining teacher effectiveness.

11. Are students with disabilities required to participate in the NC Final Exams?

Students with disabilities who are currently instructed on the Extended Content Standards and, according to their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), participating in the NCEXTEND1 alternate assessments are the only students with disabilities who are exempt from the NC Final Exams.

12. Are there alternate assessments for the NC Final Exams for students receiving Exceptional Education Services?

No. There are no alternate assessments for the NC Final Exams for Exceptional Children. Students with disabilities, including students only receiving services under Section 504, may receive testing accommodations for the NC Final Exams. The need for accommodations must be documented, and copies of the documentation must be kept at the school and be made available to test coordinators. The accommodations must be used routinely during the student's instructional program and similar classroom assessments. For all NC Final Exams, (1) *Braille*, (2) *Large Print*, (3) *One Test Item Per Page*, and (4) *Large Print-One Test Item Per Page* editions are available for order. Additionally, special print requests can be made.

13. What is the testing time allotted for each NC Final Exam?

The administration time for all NC Final Exams (elementary, middle, and high school) is 120 minutes. No administration of an NC Final Exam may exceed 120 minutes, and each exam must be administered in one school day (except for students with documented special needs requiring accommodations, such as *Scheduled Extended Time* and/or *Multiple Testing Sessions*). The 120-minute administration time does not include time for general instructions and breaks.

14. What type of questions are on the NC Final Exams?

Most NC Final Exams have only multiple-choice questions for which the students have to choose the best answer. The English III NCFE includes questions that require students to write a short answer.